



# JFACT

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Testimony on House Bill 5358: An Act Prohibiting State Contracts With Entities Making Certain Investments In Iran on February 22, 2013 before Government, Administration, and Elections Committee

Senator Musto and Representative Jutila,

I am Robert Fishman, Executive Director of Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) and we are proud to endorse House Bill 5358: An Act Prohibiting State Contracts With Entities Making Certain Investments In Iran. The 9 federations of Connecticut fully understand that Iran's desire to develop nuclear weapons is a threat to the entire Middle Eastern region, the State of Israel directly, and to the United States along with all Western democracies. Iran continues on the march to nuclear weapons despite the tightening sanctions from the United States and many other nations. Although our State does not normally involve itself in foreign issues, it has taken a stance divesting in state pension funds for both Sudan for its Genocide in Darfur and Iran. We are very grateful for this positive action.

The goal of this legislation which passed overwhelmingly in the House last session but ran out of time in the Senate, is to match our State with federal legislation from 2010 which prohibits companies from obtaining federal contracts if they do any business with Iran. The 2010 legislation allows for states to pass similar state contract bills.

Last year, this committee heard expert testimony from David Ibsen, Executive Director of United Against Nuclear Iran. He is not able to be with us today, but he has submitted written testimony. Dr. Leonard Eisenfeld also has submitted written testimony and plans to testify in person as well.

JFACT is pleased Connecticut is raising this bill and hopes it will pass as similar legislation has in Florida, New York, Indiana, California, Maryland, Michigan and New Jersey. Once again, thank you for raising this bill and I would be willing to answer any questions.

Sincerely,  
Robert J. Fishman  
Executive Director

**The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) is a statewide Association serving as a legislative representative for the nine Connecticut Jewish Federations and their associated agencies, an advocate for the Jewish Community, a public affairs spokesperson and coordinator on statewide programs on issues of mutual interest and concern in the state of Connecticut and Israel**